

A NEW SPECIES OF *CALLISIA* (COMMELINACEAE) FROM NUEVO LEON,
MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species of *Callisia*, *C. hintoniorum* B.L. Turner, is described and illustrated from Nuevo León, México. It apparently belongs to the sect. *Cuthbertia* and is a localized edaphic endemic confined to rather barren gypseous soils in the vicinity of Zaragoza.

KEY WORDS: *Callisia*, *Cuthbertia*, Commelinaceae, México

Hunt (1986) provided a systematic amplification and overview of the genus *Callisia*. In this he recognized six sections. The novelty described here apparently belongs to the sect. *Cuthbertia* which contains *C. rosea* (Vent.) D.R. Hunt, *C. graminea* (Small) G. Tucker, and *C. ornata* (Small) G. Tucker, all of these characterized by erect habits, linear leaves, and inconspicuous spathes (Lakela 1972; Tucker 1989).

Callisia hintoniorum B.L. Turner, *sp. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: MEXICO. Nuevo León: Mpio. Zaragoza, gypsum hillside E of Zaragoza, 1365 m, "scattered plants", 28 Jul 1993, *G.B. Hinton et al.* 23112 (HOLOTYPE: TEX).

Herbae erectae perennes rhizomatibus brevibus et radicibus fibrosis. Folia lineari-lanceolata. Flores 3-8 in umbellis axillaribus ac pseudoterminalibus dispositi, spathae singulae; petala purpurata, late ovalia unguibus brevibus; stamina 6, filamenta pubescentia infra medium trichomatibus multiseptatis glabra supra. Capsulae glabra, semina in quoque loculo 2 vel raro 1.

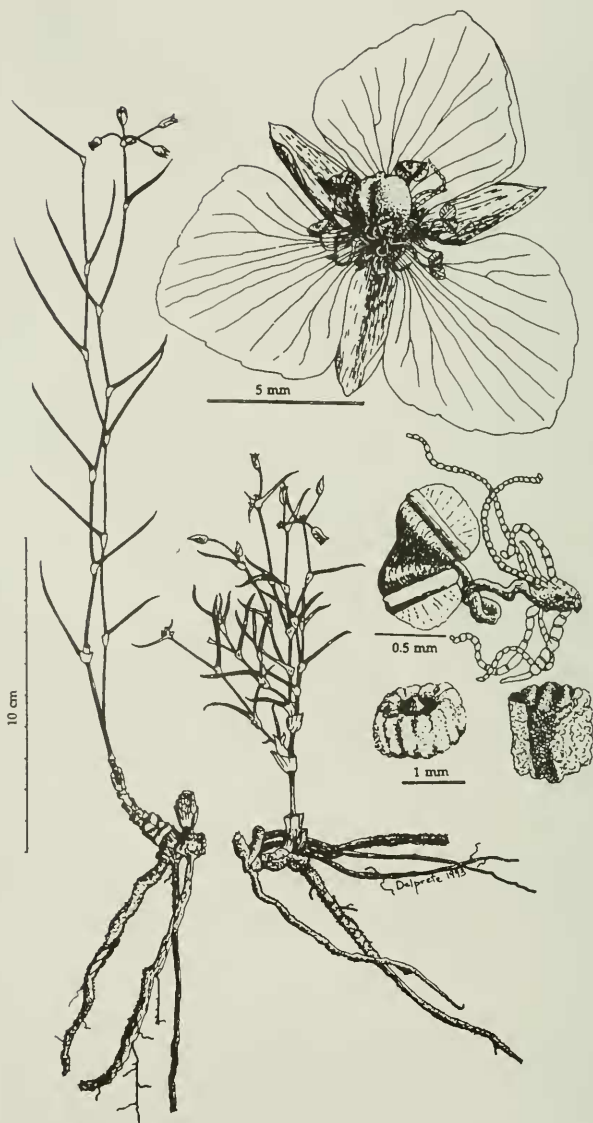


Figure 1. *Callisia hintoniorum*, from holotype.

Erect slender perennial herbs 5-25 cm high. Stems minutely hispidulopuberulous to glabrate, 1 to several, arising from a short rhizome off of which develop a fascicle of 1-10 fibrous cylindrical roots, each ca. 3 mm across. Leaves linear-lanceolate, mostly 2-5 cm long, 0.1-0.3 cm wide, minutely pubescent to glabrescent like the stems, the basal sheath 3-4 mm wide, 3-5 mm high, the margins ciliate below. Flowers mostly 3-8 in axillary or pseudoterminal bracteate umbels, the pedicels ca. 1.5 cm long, at maturity widely divergent and soon recurved. Bracts at base of pedicels broadly ovate, scarious with darkened midribs, ca. 1.5 mm wide, ca. 2 mm high. Sepals lanceolate, ca. 5 mm long, 2 mm wide, a few pilose hairs near their base. Petals reportedly purple, when dried broadly oval, ca. 7 mm long, 6 mm wide, their apices obtuse or rounded, persistent, their bases shortly clawed and seemingly somewhat fused below. Stamens 6, ca. as long as the petals, the filaments scarious, glabrous above, pilose below with multiseptate trichomes 1-2 mm long, the anther sacs yellow, widely divergent, the apices of the triangular connectives ca. 1 mm across. Ovary ovoid, glabrous, the styles ca. 5 mm long, the stigmatic portion penicellate-capitate. Capsules glabrous, at maturity splitting at the apex, each locule usually containing 2 scruffy-white seeds, rarely only 1. Seeds more or less square to transversely oblong, somewhat ornate with 3-5 lateral ribs along each side.

This species appears to have no close relations among Mexican taxa of *Callisia*. Because it possesses inflorescence units mostly axillary and "pseudoterminal", short rhizomes with fibrous roots, and simple, somewhat foliaceous spathes, I would place the species in or near the sect. *Cuthbertia* of *Callisia*, sensu Hunt (1986). *Callisia hintoniorum* shares a number of floral features with the group, including similar stamens with similar anther connectives, capitellate stigmas and similar seeds.

Callisia hintoniorum appears to be confined to gypseous soils in the areas concerned. The following excerpt from a letter sent with the type material by the late G.B. Hinton's grandson, George Hinton, tells it better:

At the beginning of the year I went to Zaragoza with my father [Jaime Hinton] to try to find some more of the *Tradescantia* you said might be undescribed, and I could not find any on the little gypsum hill where I found it last year. At the end of July I tried again and found none on the original site North of Zaragoza on the way to El Salitre. However, checking out some gypsum to the East of Zaragoza, I found a little gypsum mound with as much as you want, and later in the day, to the North of Aramberri, on another gypsum hill where I first found *Jaimehintonia gypsophila*, I found some more of the *Tradescantia*, although not in flower.

It is a pleasure to name this very distinct species for the remarkable Hinton family.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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